## HEALTHY SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO LEARN + THRIVE

June 12, 2019

Ms. Alexandra Dapolito Dunn Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention USEPA Headquarters - William Jefferson Clinton Building 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Mail Code: 7101M Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Dunn:

We are writing to you to convey our support for the U.S. EPA Safer Choice program. The Safer Choice program has been and continues to be an invaluable resource to industry by working with individual companies to help them develop and promote new and innovative products that meet the rising demand by consumers, businesses, schools, and hospitals for products and goods that possess an excellent environmental, health and safety profile. It is also an important guidepost for those who clean buildings to make informed decisions about which products are the most effective, safe and healthy for humans and the environment.

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As you may know, the Safer Choice Program is a voluntary program with safety and efficacy standards surrounding ingredients and product packaging. A product is only allowed to carry the Safer Choice label if each ingredient is among the safest in its class. The EPA evaluates every ingredient against a stringent set of health and environmental criteria from a chemical perspective. These criteria address potential health and environmental concerns, including VOC content and whether the chemical accumulates in human tissue. Additionally, the product as a whole has to meet safety criteria, qualify as high-performing and be packaged in an environmentally friendly manner. Safer Choice products must also disclose a complete ingredient list to consumers. 20 5 7 July 1920 May 1975 1975 1975

The Safer Choice program helps consumers, businesses, and procurement officers/purchasers to identify products that go beyond regular safety standards by using chemical ingredients that have more favorable attributes, including reduced environmental and health hazards, in their functional class, and that also maintain a high level of performance. The marketplace is constantly evolving, and the EPA's Safer Choice Program has emerged as a reliable measure of a product's environmental and health impact. The Safer Choice label helps purchasers

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navigate the marketplace and weed out products that simply claim to be healthy from those products that actually are healthy.

Through our Green Clean Schools program, we are dedicated to protecting the health of students by educating facility managers about how to choose processes and products that are safe for human health and the environment. We rely on programs like the Safer Choice program to guide that work. The Safer Choice program provides an invaluable service to purchasers at schools and universities, helping them to ensure that their educational institutions are cleaned using products that are safe for building occupants—many of them very young children—to be exposed to, and which do not damage the environment.

In conclusion, we would like to emphasize our support for the Safer Choice program and urge the EPA to continue to fund and run this important program, which does so much to improve industry and protect the health of those who attend and work at our nation's schools.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Davis President + CEO

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